

SENATE FILE 2066
BY JOCHUM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a school district
2 reorganization workgroup to redraw school district
3 boundaries following the 2010 federal decennial census.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 REORGANIZATION WORKGROUP.

3 1. The department of education shall convene a workgroup to
4 utilize the 2010 United States Census Bureau population data
5 for Iowa to draw plans for school district boundaries designed
6 to improve student opportunity and achievement and attain
7 efficiencies in administration and operations.

8 a. The workgroup shall develop a preferred reorganization
9 plan and two alternative reorganization plans. Each plan
10 shall provide that each school district is wholly included
11 within a single congressional district established by the plan
12 enacted pursuant to chapter 42 following the 2010 federal
13 decennial census. The school districts shall be reasonably
14 compact in form. The school districts shall be composed of
15 contiguous territory and as nearly equal as practicable to the
16 ideal enrollment for the school districts, as determined using
17 evidence-based research methods. Consideration shall also be
18 given to student transportation times and costs and property
19 valuation. In general, reasonably compact districts are those
20 which are square, rectangular, or hexagonal in shape, and not
21 irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or
22 political boundaries.

23 b. The goal of the workgroup shall be to reduce the number
24 of school boards and administrators by correlating the number
25 of students enrolled in a school district to the geographic
26 size of the school district. The minimum enrollment for a
27 school district shall be one thousand students. The workgroup
28 may consider establishing a maximum enrollment for a school
29 district.

30 2. a. The director of the department of education shall
31 appoint members to the workgroup who represent communities,
32 education practitioners, education associations, and small,
33 medium, and large school districts throughout Iowa. The
34 membership shall include but not be limited to educational
35 technology and school transportation specialists, school

1 business officials, a professional with experience or expertise
2 in state and local taxation matters, and other stakeholders as
3 appropriate. The workgroup shall also include four ex officio,
4 nonvoting legislative members. The legislative members are
5 two state senators, one appointed by the president of the
6 senate after consultation with the majority leader of the
7 senate, and one appointed by the minority leader of the senate
8 from their respective parties; and two state representatives,
9 one appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives
10 after consultation with the majority leader of the house of
11 representatives, and one appointed by the minority leader of
12 the house of representatives from their respective parties.
13 The legislative members shall serve for terms as provided in
14 section 69.16B.

15 b. The members of the workgroup are entitled to receive
16 reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the
17 performance of official duties.

18 c. The workgroup shall elect a chairperson from among its
19 members. A majority of the workgroup constitutes a quorum and
20 an affirmative vote of the majority of the voting members is
21 necessary to approve the recommendations of the workgroup. A
22 vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of a quorum
23 to exercise all rights and perform all duties of the workgroup.

24 3. The workgroup shall submit the plans and its findings and
25 recommendations, including any recommendations for statutory
26 changes, to the general assembly and the governor by December
27 1, 2011.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill directs the department of education to convene a
30 workgroup to utilize the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau population
31 data for Iowa to draw plans for school districts boundaries
32 designed to improve student opportunity and achievement and
33 attain efficiencies in administration and operations.

34 The workgroup shall develop a preferred reorganization plan
35 and two alternative reorganization plans. Under any plan,

1 each school district must be wholly included within a single
2 congressional district, be composed of contiguous territory
3 and as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal enrollment for
4 the school districts, and consideration must given to student
5 transportation times and costs, and property valuation. School
6 districts shall be reasonably compact in form.

7 The goal of the workgroup shall be to reduce the number
8 of school boards and administrators by linking the number of
9 students enrolled in a school district to the geographic size
10 of the school district. The minimum enrollment for a school
11 district shall be 1,000 students and the workgroup may consider
12 establishing a maximum enrollment number.

13 The director of the department of education shall appoint
14 members to the workgroup who represent communities, education
15 practitioners, education associations, and small, medium,
16 and large school districts throughout Iowa. The membership
17 shall include but not be limited to educational technology and
18 school transportation specialists, school business officials, a
19 professional with experience or expertise in state and local
20 taxation matters, and other stakeholders as appropriate.
21 The workgroup shall also include four ex officio, nonvoting
22 legislative members.

23 The workgroup shall submit the plans and its findings and
24 recommendations, including any recommendations for statutory
25 changes, to the general assembly and the governor by December
26 1, 2011.